

Ridley remembered

■ President for over a decade, Fr. Harold 'Hap' Ridley ushered in a new era for LC

By PETE DAVIS
EDITOR IN CHIEF AND
CHRISTINA SANTUCCI
MANAGING EDITOR

Loyola College President Rev. Harold Ridley, S.J. died suddenly at his home on Tuesday night, Jan. 18, after leading the college through a decade of progress and achievements that established Loyola as a pre-eminent Jesuit institution. He was 65.

His secretary found Ridley early Wednesday morning, but the cause of death has not been determined.

"We are deeply saddened by this sudden news, and our thoughts and prayers are with him, his family, and his many friends," said board of trustee chair John Cochran, an alumnus of the Class of 1973 and chief executive officer of MBNA America Bank.

Ridley was born on June 20, 1939, in Jersey City, N.J. and attended school at Fordham University, Woodstock College and the Union Theological Seminary before going on to receive his Ph.D. in English literature from New York University. He began teaching English and Latin at Regis High School in New York and then went on to teach humanities at the Maryland Institute College of Art from 1967-68.

A year later, Ridley was ordained as a priest in the Roman Catholic Church.

After his time there, Ridley moved on to Le Moyne College, a Jesuit institution in Syracuse, N.Y., where he served as the chair of the English department and a chief academic officer.

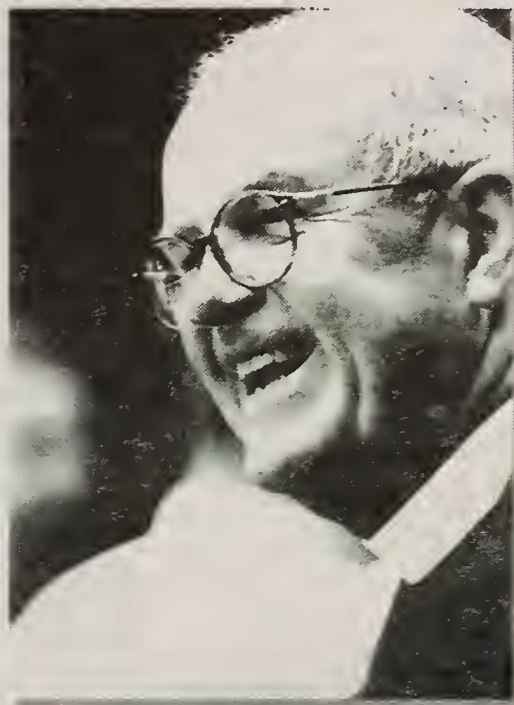
At Le Moyne, Ridley had developed a close-knit circle of friends including Genevieve Saya, who has served in various posts at LeMoyne including a vice president position.

Saya described "the great impact he had on so many people ... He will be greatly missed."

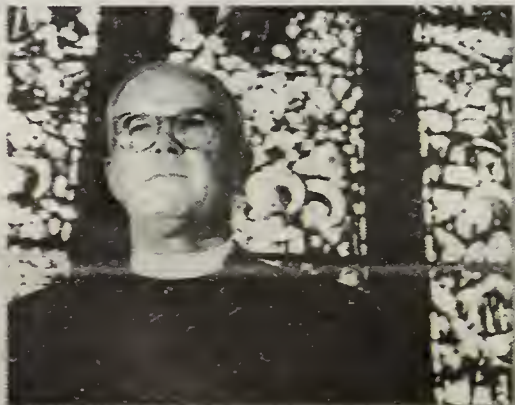
Ridley stayed at Le Moyne for over 20 years in these capacities.

Le Moyne College President Rev. Charles J. Beirne, S.J., spoke of Ridley's warmth and kindness as both a teacher and a human being. Before entering the Jesuits on the same day, Beirne attended high school and the seminary with Ridley.

"[Ridley] was a superb teacher -- very difficult, very demanding," Beirne remembered, adding that Ridley often would begin class with a quote from Shakespeare,



Rev. Harold Ridley (1939 - 2005)



which his pupils would then have to identify.

On the advice of a close friend, the Rev. Frank Nash, S.J., Ridley applied for the presidency at Loyola and was offered the job.

"It was a great loss to Le Moyne when he left but a great gain for Loyola," Nash said.

Harold "Hap" Ridley became the 23rd president of Loyola College on July 1, 1994, succeeding the Rev. Joseph A. Sellinger, S.J., who served as president for 28 years before he lost his battle with cancer on April 19, 1993. Sellinger presided over Loyola's numerous large-scale changes, including the transition from an all male small local school to a co-ed regional school.

During the 14-month period in

between Sellinger's death and Ridley's appointment, Tom Scheye, an English professor and then-provost at Loyola, served as the interim president.

When Ridley arrived, he immediately made clear that he wasn't trying to fill the shoes of Sellinger.

"I thought that my strength might be that number one I was following a president who had been here for 30 years, who was legendary, who had been outstandingly successful. And so as a 54-year-old guy with my set of experience, I wasn't going to collapse under the burden of following [Sellinger]," Ridley said in an interview with *The Greyhound* last April.

As president, he proclaimed that

even though the college had made great strides in the past years, it needed to continue to move forward in order to gain the elite status that he envisioned for Loyola.

"All you need to do is spend a half an hour with him and you know what a great personality he is, what a great leader he is," said Vice President and Treasurer John Palmucci, who was the first person that Ridley hired after taking over as president.

During his tenure as president, he implemented his vision for the college, and the results can be seen physically with the addition of many new buildings and facilities such as a new Fitness and Aquatic Center opening on North Charles St. in 2000, a new academic

building for the Sellinger School of Business and Management a year later and two new graduate centers at the Timonium and Columbia campuses in 1999 and 2003, respectively.

"But maybe more important than the physical buildings, the president touches everything so there's been improvement on every front," said Dr. David Haddad, vice president for academic affairs, who will serve as the interim president of the college.

"There's been improvement in the things we do in student development, improvement in the faculty, improvement in looking at and evaluating programs and curriculum. You almost name every asset of the college, and there's been improvement," Haddad said.

Another area that he worked hard on improving was the academic atmosphere at Loyola. Since Ridley arrived Loyola has seen the number and quality of undergraduate student applications increase from 4,500 to 7,600 as well as growth in the number of students enrolled at the two graduate programs.

In 1999, Loyola graduated its first Rhodes scholar, Jose Vargas, a biology major.

Ridley also implemented the Alpha program for freshmen, a sophomore initiative aimed at increasing the percentage of returning students and a Catholic Studies program in hopes of increasing the academic fiber of the institution.

"That's what Alpha was designed to help, to get students excited about the real hard intellectual work," Ridley said last April. "What we've been trying to do for the past 10 years is to really help this school reach its academic potential: better students, better faculty, increased reputation as a premiere university."

Ridley was considered by much of the faculty and administration to be academically oriented.

"Most of my career was teaching and I felt that probably the faculty would appreciate a president who understood the challenges of teaching and so forth," Ridley said in the April 2004 interview.

"His relationship with the faculty was extremely good," said Dr. Lee Dahringer, dean of the Sellinger School for Business and Management. "He was very value oriented, honest, told people where they stood, had great vision. He was the best president I ever

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Alumni remember Ridley throughout the years

BY CHELSEA HADDAWAY
NEWS EDITOR

The Rev. Harold Ridley's presence often extended beyond a student's tenure at Loyola, and he continued to touch the lives of alumni long after they graduated.

"He was just truly a great guy who really had a genuine concern not only for the school but for students and academics and the whole experience a student would have while they were here," Christopher McManus said. He was a freshman in 1994, Ridley's first year at the college, and was senior class president four years later.

"Throughout my four years there you'd see him walking through the quad, going to meetings, soccer games ... he was an extremely dynamic person who had a great presence about him,"

he said.

McManus remembered a time when he had a friend visiting from Boston College, and they stopped to talk to Ridley on the bridge.

"Afterwards my friend was like, 'Who was that?' and I said 'That was our president,'" McManus said. "[My friend] said 'You actually know the president?' It was a neat contrast to see how we really knew him."

"He was a priest, but he was the father; he was the person who everyone respected above all else. He was very much the face of Loyola," said former SGA president Erin O'Keefe, '03.

Ridley's approachability is something that many alumni remember about their time at Loyola.

"Here was this guy who was the president of the college, and then he comes up, and he makes a joke,

and you're like this is kind of a normal guy," former SGA president Ryan Nowlin, '02, said.

"He was so approachable, and some people were lucky enough to have the chance to get to know him better, but even people who never got to talk to him would say he's such a nice guy," O'Keefe said.

"As I got involved in student government and other things on campus, I got to work with him, and I realized that he was an incredibly intelligent man who just had a knack for running Loyola College. It was a pleasure working with him," Nowlin said.

Nowlin was one of several people, including O'Keefe, who shared personal memories about Ridley at a ceremony last Friday.

"[The ceremony] was a great example of why Loyola is such a special place, we've got a really

closely-knit community," he said. "It was a great opportunity for everyone to hear some kind of personal stories."

"I found him as person I could talk to about anything, and he was going to give me his honest feedback," said Rob Kelly, '94, who was on the student committee that was able to help choose the Rev. Joseph Sellinger's successor his senior year.

"When he walked in the room, I knew he would be the next president," Kelly said, citing Ridley's "ability to immediately connect with the students."

"Hap really made it a point to get to know all the students who were there. He made you feel like he was really listening to what you had to say," he said.

"He came at a time when we all knew Sellinger, and he did a nice job of really connecting with the students he didn't know right away," Kelly said.

Nowlin recalls dinners that Ridley would hold with 10 seniors at his home each month.

"You think when you'd go into a situation like that you'd have to be on your best behavior, but he made it so easy. We just kind of sat around and talked about our experiences. It was a real fun atmosphere," he said.

According to Kelly, Ridley's ability to connect applied not only to students but to all of those around him. He recalls a time when he began bringing his girlfriend, who was later to become his wife, to many alumni events.

"He pulled me aside and said, 'You know you keep bringing Brigid to all of these functions, and these are family functions, so when is she going to become part of the family?'" he said. "He found

a very special place in her heart because of the interest he took in her."

It was Kelly's wife who informed him of Ridley's death.

"He was such a good man and such a good person, and he's still with us. He's still looking down on us from heaven," he said.

Kelly also got to know Ridley through more recent membership on the board of trustees for the college.

"[Being on the board] I found him to be methodical and very student-centered in ways that as president he wasn't able to show as much," he said. "He was very protective of Loyola, as if it was his child."

"We had a very jovial relationship. He always joked around with me, but he certainly looked out for me," O'Keefe said.

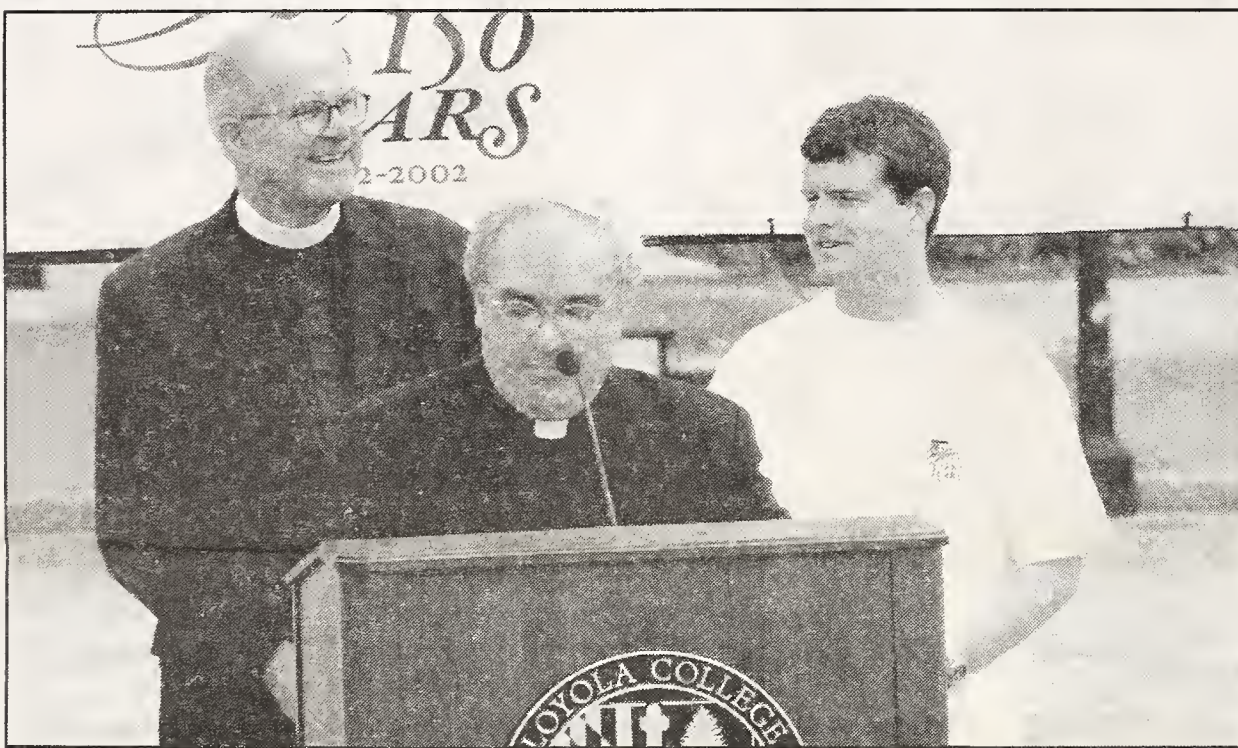
O'Keefe also serves on the board as a young alumnus.

"I think even in the past couple of months I guess I realized that I was finally an adult and could treat him as one. He was still very much the same with me, but I felt the ability to act a little more normal, and we became better friends," she said.

Most alumni attribute the direction that the school has taken in the last decade to Ridley and his influence.

"It was great to see how it changed a lot, but it didn't become a big impersonal institution," McManus said. "His stamp is really all over the momentum and the direction that the school is taking."

"He played a very important role in making Loyola not only look physically different, but also improving its reputation," Nowlin said.



FILE PHOTO

Ridley shares a moment with then-SGA President Ryan Nowlin while the Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J. speaks during the sesquicentennial celebration in 2002. Ridley once said that the 150th anniversary of the college was one his favorite events while he was president.

Varga passes away after nearly fifty years of service

BY CHRISTINA SANTUCCI
MANAGING EDITOR

After 50 years of service to Loyola, Dr. Nicholas Varga, college archivist and professor emeritus of history, died last Tuesday due to complications during neurological surgery at Good Samaritan Hospital. Varga was 79.

An expert on Maryland history and colonial New York politics, Varga in addition prided himself on the history of Loyola, which was founded in 1852.

In his research, he was able to disprove the myth that American Catholic and Jesuit colleges were created to educate the sons of immigrants.

"I found that the early students admitted to Loyola came from the families of doctors, lawyers, businessmen, widows and enterprising women. The sons of immigrants did not begin to appear on the Loyola registers until the mid-1890s," he wrote in the book, *Baltimore's*

Loyola, Loyola's Baltimore, a history of Loyola published by The Maryland Historical Society.

Varga became a fundamental member of the college even though he was neither a Maryland native nor a graduate of Loyola.

Born in Elizabeth, N.J., on Sept. 13, 1925, Varga was the son of immigrant parents from what is now Slovakia.

He enlisted in the Army fresh out of high school and served as a heavy machine gunner in Europe during World War II, where he was wounded in action.

After a two-year recovery, Varga was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant. He was awarded the Bronze Star for valor, Combat Infantry Badge and the Purple Heart.

In 1951, he married Margaret Joan Skinner, with whom he had three children.

That same year, Varga graduated cum laude from Boston College. He earned his master's degree the following year and his doctorate with honors from Fordham College in 1960 while working at Loyola College as an instructor in the department of history and social

sciences.

He served in that position from 1955 to 1992, also serving as department chair of history and social sciences and chair of the board of rank and tenure.

In his autobiographical sketch, Varga wrote that he believed teaching history was more than "merely the facts and interpretations of history." Rather a history professor must "draw valid conclusions from the available evidence and also how firmly such conclusions were to be held," he proposed.

During his tenure, Varga was honored on several occasions including his Outstanding American Educator award in 1977, the Bene Merenti Award from Loyola College in 1980 and the Andrew White Medal from Loyola College in 2001.

"Niek was always fascinated with history and enjoyed transmitting that to others. He was enthusiastic and generous," said Loyola history professor Dr. John R. Breihan in a *Baltimore Sun* article. Breihan was a longtime friend and colleague of Varga.

"He was also gifted with a

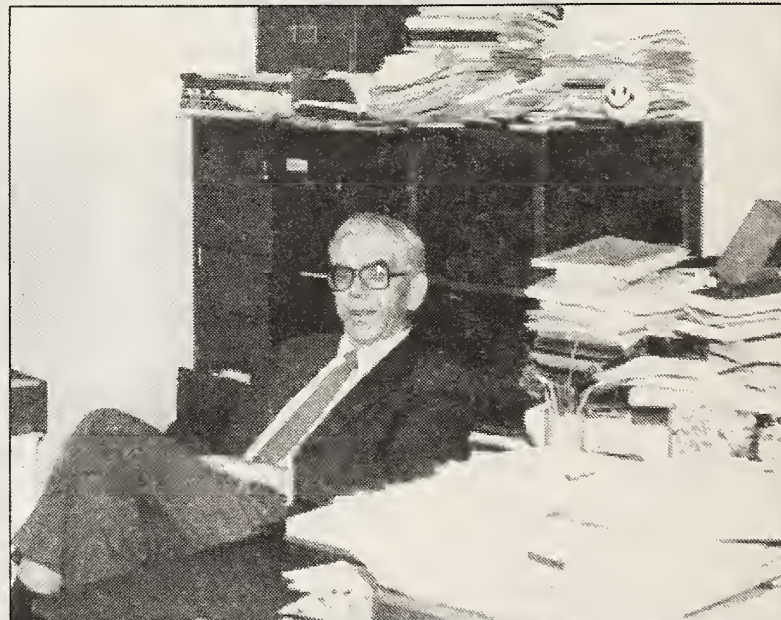


PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Dr. Nicholas Varga served at Loyola College for nearly 50 years, first as a professor of history and later as the college archivist.

playful intellect," he said.

In 1976, he became the college archivist and served in the position until his death.

"He was a man full of knowledge," said Loyola history professor Rev. Charles Borges, S.J.

Varga founded a campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors and served as president of the United Nations Association of Maryland.

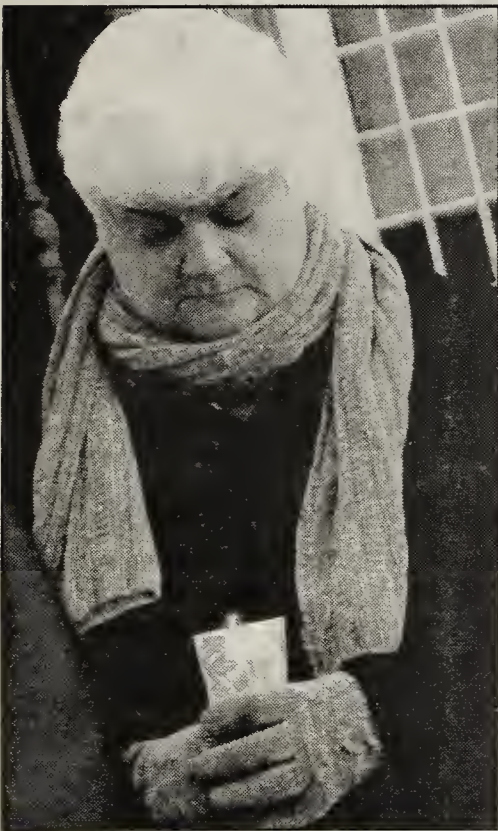
A Mass in memorial of Varga will be held at 10:15 a.m. Jan. 29 at Alumni Chapel on Loyola's campus at 4501 N. Charles St.

Varga is survived by his wife of 53 years, the former Margaret Joan Skinner; his son, Colin Peire Varga of Philadelphia; his son Damian Guy Varga of Sykesville; his daughter, Deidre Krasnansky of Westminster; and three grandsons.

Students pay tribute to Ridley's memory

By CHELSEA HADDAWAY
News Editor

Last Friday, students filled McGuire Hall to capacity in order to pay tribute to the Rev. Harold Ridley's memory by sharing stories, songs and a candlelight vigil in his memory.



CHRISTINA SANTUCCI/GREYHOUND

After the service, a candlelight vigil was held outside of Ridley's house to honor his memory.

The event, titled "The Student Body Remembers," was organized by the Green and Grey Society and the SGA.

"We had 48 hours to make it happen, and it was really great to see it come together. It just kind of happened right in front of us, and we went with it," said senior Green and Grey member Jackie Truncellito.

The stories came from students, administrators and alumni and were all designed to give the student body a better sense of Ridley as a person. What came through was the sense of him as a humorous, approachable man who may have appeared larger than life at times but ultimately put students first in every decision he made.

"It's a person you know just because of his position, but [if you don't know him personally] you really don't know who he was," said sophomore Mike McMonagle, who spoke at the service.

"It was obviously a very somber event, but it was still lighthearted. People were able to laugh and appreciate all the different aspects of Fr. Ridley's personality," Truncellito said.

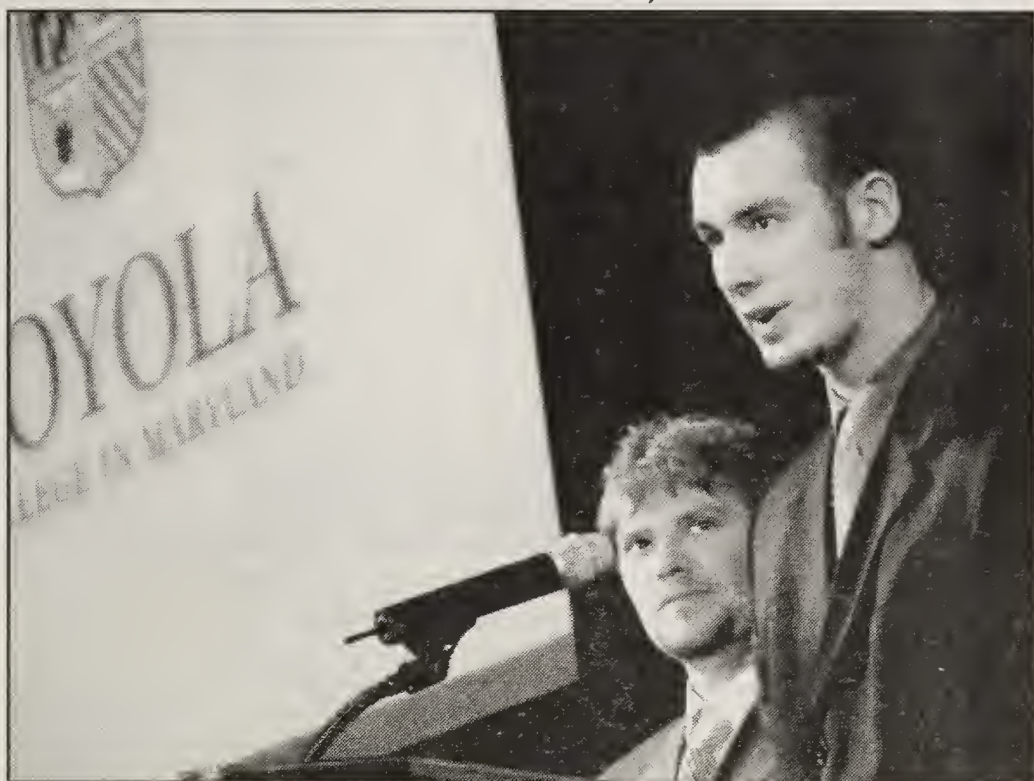
The first speaker was the Rev. Frank Nash, S.J., who described Ridley as his best friend.

"He is a very spiritual man but not a pious one," he said, supporting this point with tales that emphasized Ridley's dry wit and that "he has the vocabulary of a sailor."

This point was reiterated again later when Vice President of Administration Terry Sawyer told stories about getting to know Ridley during some of his early days as his assistant.

Students spoke of the approachability of Ridley and the care that he took to ensure that students were well taken care of.

Seniors Mark Pawloski and Tom



CHRISTINA SANTUCCI/GREYHOUND

Seniors Mark Pawloski (left) and Tom Kowalczyk (right) provided some personal anecdotes about the role of Ridley in the daily lives of Loyola students.

Kowalczyk told a story about when they bid on, but didn't win, a dinner with Ridley at the Project Mexico Auction earlier this year. A few days later, Ridley called them to offer them tickets to a Ravens game the following day.

Sophomore lacrosse player Corey Coffman spoke about Ridley giving him the extra help he needed to attend Loyola and how Loyola's president was always making sure that Coffman was taken care of. McMonagle remembered Ridley taking time out of his day to pray for him during a silent retreat earlier in the semester.

"They all said the exact same thing as me. they all talked about his approachability, and at first I was like 'oh no,' but it really speaks something. Because if three different people all spoke about the same thing it must be true," McMonagle said.

The final speakers were Erin O'Keefe, '03, and Ryan Nowlin, '02, who had both served as SGA presidents during their respective senior years. O'Keefe spoke of the joking relationship she had with Ridley about the suitability of a woman for the presidency.

The service ended with Geary For

President playing the song "Hear You Me" by Jimmy Eat World. Ridley had bought a song by the band at the Project Mexico Auction.

"He won a dedication, and with what happened we never got to do the song, so we picked a song that we thought was appropriate," said Mike Ferrara, the drummer for the band.

"I've never gotten a reaction like this from any show we've ever played before," he said.

After the service, members of the SGA and the Green and Grey Society led a candlelight procession to Armiger House, Ridley's residence.

"I thought it was really well done, I was very much proud of the student leaders that were able to put it on, and I think that Fr. Ridley would have appreciated it," O'Keefe said. "I was very proud to be included."

"We've gotten a lot of thank yous. It was a good segue to the ceremonies that will happen this week and a good part of the healing process," Truncellito said.

"Everything that [the speakers] said was totally true," she said.

Vision provided direction

continued from the front page
worked for."

The Rev. Charles Borges, S.J., a history professor at Loyola, remembered Ridley as a reserved but considerate leader.

"Fr. Ridley was very smart, kind," Borges said. "He always had Loyola in his heart."

Another important contribution Ridley made during his tenure at Loyola can be seen in the completion of the strategic plan "Magis" from 1995-2000 and the execution of the current plan, "Great Resolves, Great Desires." During both of these plans, he helped coordinate groundbreaking fundraising efforts -- earning a record \$43 million for the capital campaign "Renewing the Promise" and raised \$56 million towards the \$80 million goal of the current campaign.

"Fr. Ridley has been tremendously successful at working with the community and the neighbors and tremendously successful working with other presidents and state leaders," Haddad said.

When asked to name Ridley's greatest accomplishment, Nash said that it was Ridley's vision for the college that topped the list in his opinion.

"[Ridley] really looked at where the college should be in terms of other schools," Nash said, adding that Ridley embodied the Jesuit motto, "Strong Truths Well Lived."

It was this deep belief in the Jesuit education that tied Ridley to his student body. Even with all of his accomplishments

he never lost touch with the students, frequently talking to them at lacrosse or basketball games, working out at the Fitness and Aquatic Center or walking on campus.

"Although he was somewhat reserved, he had no problem going up to a student and talking with them," said senior Mark Pawloski, who said that Ridley's best qualities included his approachability and presence.

"I was always impressed by the students who did meet him had a relationship with him -- they liked him. He used to have a dinner with seniors, and several times I co-hosted with him, and it was just such a wonderful conversation. It was clear to the students that he was interested in them, in their welfare," Nash said.

Senior Tom Kowalczyk said that Ridley will be very much missed by the student body and Loyola community.

"[Ridley] won't be replaced in any way," he said.

"There's a wholeness about the wonderful things he was able to do at Loyola College I think the strength that he has established at Loyola after a decade of service will serve the college very well in the future," Beirne said.

Survivors include his mother, Doris Ridley of Manasquan, N.J.; a brother, John Ridley of Bernardsville, N.J.; a sister, Sister Judith Ridley of Philadelphia; and several nieces and nephews.



CHRISTINA SANTUCCI/GREYHOUND

Speakers Ryan Nowlin, '02, Erin O'Keefe, '03, Terry Sawyer, and the Rev. Frank Nash, S.J. (left to right) all spoke of the impact that Ridley had on their lives.

Haddad to preside in interim

By CHRISTINA SANTUCCI
Managing Editor

Dr. David Haddad, vice president of Academic Affairs, was named interim president of Loyola last Wednesday following the death of College President Rev. Harold Ridley, S.J. last Tuesday night.

"While everyone in Loyola College community, particularly the trustees, were shocked and saddened by the news of Fr. Ridley's passing, the board [of trustees] was compelled to ensure the affairs of the college were still able to be tended to appropriately," said Terry Sawyer, the vice president of Administration.

The decision was made at a meeting of the executive committee by conference call.

Haddad explained his role as interim president was to "carry out Fr. Ridley's

vision and to carry out the Strategic Plan that we've all agreed on. It's to continue to move us forward."

The determination to continue Ridley's vision Haddad attributes to the former president's excellent leadership.

Before he came to Loyola in 1999, Haddad, a mathematician, served as a member of the faculty and the dean of the School of Applied Science at Miami University (Ohio) for nearly a decade.

Haddad earned his Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics from Wheeling Jesuit University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University.

"The sign of a great leader is how well an institution can carry on when the leader is not there, and I think we'll be able to carry on because of Fr. Ridley's leadership and vision," Haddad said.

—THE GREYHOUND EDITORIAL—

Thank you Fr. Ridley

On Tuesday night, Jan. 18, 2005, Loyola College lost a great president. More importantly, we as a community also lost a great man. Rev. Harold E. "Hap" Ridley, S.J. was great friend to some, adviser to others and leader to us all, and it is with the deepest sadness that we offer our condolences to all of those whose lives were touched by Fr. Ridley.

When Fr. Ridley started at Loyola over 10 years ago, he had the unenviable task of succeeding Rev. Joseph A. Sellinger, S.J. who led Loyola for nearly 30 years through a period of prodigious change. During this difficult situation, Fr. Ridley managed a balance of building on the successes of Fr. Sellinger, but also asserting his own plans and vision for the college.

As the campus newspaper, we had a unique relationship with Fr. Ridley throughout his tenure at the college. Throughout the decade of his presidency, he has jokingly nicknamed editors and our publication the "poison pen," "domestic press," and even "The Dolphin" (the name of the student paper at Le Moyne College). Rarely did we speak directly to him concerning stories that we ran in our paper, but he was always good about giving us a statement when we asked.

At times, our relationship may have been tenuous, and this exact space has often criticized policies and decisions that Fr. Ridley and his administration have made. Even though this was the case, we have always had faith in the integrity of our president, and we truly believe that his decisions were made in the best interests of the college.

Throughout this past week, we talked to many students, alumni, faculty, administrators and friends of Fr. Ridley. Many told us anecdotes, talked about his leadership and vision for the school and the accomplishments during his tenure, but a unifying theme that came through with almost everyone we spoke to was the emphasis he placed on students. Whether it was inviting seniors to dinner at his house, going into the locker room to talk to teams after games or stopping to talk to students walking to class, he always made an effort to get to know his students.

Even though Fr. Ridley is gone, his tremendous impact on Loyola College will be seen for years to come. In this tragedy, we have seen the college community rally together, and we are fully confident that Loyola will continue to move forward as an institution with the vision that Fr. Ridley provided for us.

Thank you Fr. Ridley for your leadership and your friendship. You will be greatly missed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Fr. Ridley jokes around and speaks with students at one of the Sesquicentennial events held on the academic quad at Loyola College.

Writer honors Ridley's legacy

I never spoke to Fr. Hap Ridley. In fact, I only saw him a few times. Despite it, the sense of emptiness I feel at his passing is very real. I believe it is my duty to publicly acknowledge the unfortunate fact that in the last issue of *The Greyhound*, I challenged his presence on campus by calling it too sparse.

This was, in actuality, just my way of expressing the fact that I did not know Fr. Ridley and wished that I had. I only realized this after hearing the news last Wednesday that he had passed away.

NICK BROWN

I thought about him, and it quickly came to my attention that I had been wondering about Fr. Ridley and the man that he was since the day I arrived at summer orientation at Loyola.

I blamed him for the unfamiliarity, but I was wrong to do that. It was nobody's fault, just one of those transient regrets that is suddenly emboldened and illuminated when something inalterable happens.

In July 2003, when I was a terrified, anxious high school graduate dreading the transition of the "Next Step" that was college, I came to Loyola for freshman orientation. From the beginning, I was not sure about LoCo -- I had been accepted off the wait-list, and I was convinced that everyone around me would be smarter, better students. For a day and a half, I listened to people talk about things. Someone, whose name I forget and who I've never heard from since, told us what would happen if we got caught with marijuana. Someone else from some academic department talked about the core curriculum and its famous rigor. Being a wait-listed student, this only heightened my insecurity.

At the time, all I heard was, "College is coming, college is

coming. Say good-bye to your comfortable, cushy life forever." The orientation was scheduled to end with a speech from the president. I felt incapable of listening to another speech and very ready to leave.

When Fr. Ridley approached the microphone, he smiled. Nothing more, just a smile. It was humble, simple, subtle yet so powerful that without thinking or realizing it, I forgot about all my sulky discontent and listened to what he had to say.

I'll never forget the first thing out of his mouth: "To all students accepted off the wait-list, I'd like to reassure you. This year, we had a record number of applicants, and the average student wait-listed this year would have been accepted last year. So if you were accepted off the wait-list, don't feel inferior. You're just as good as anyone here."

Right off the bat, I got a sense that Fr. Ridley was a man who cared about Loyola, its beliefs and the Jesuit mission. His comment demonstrated a natural sensitivity to the anxieties of incoming freshmen -- a sensitivity that, I bet, a lot of people simply would not possess or incidentally think to express.

When I did see him around campus, he was always grinning or shaking hands with a student. His face was rich with character, and I remember thinking that he'd be a good guy to talk to about anything from sports to philosophy.

And I wish I'd had that opportunity. But now that Fr. Ridley is gone, instead of mourning the fact that I never got that opportunity, I thank God for those who did. Life only comes with so many opportunities, and it's necessary for enlightenment's sake to focus on those that were taken rather than those that passed by.

The local news teams were out in full force this past week. I walked by one outside the

Humanities building, the reporter holding a piece of paper and a pen and jotting down notes about cause of death. The night before, an anchor on WBZ called him "Fr. Siddler."

That is all Fr. Ridley is to the news teams -- notes and a name (and not necessarily even the correct one). To many people, he was infinitely more. He was full of faith, thoughts, friendship, respect, humility and the list goes on.

I was not one of the people who knew him that deeply, but I felt the potential for that type of relationship without ever speaking to him, and I think that says something.

Losing a leader shakes any foundation, but instead of "losing" Fr. Ridley, why can't we say we've gained him in a new form? I always like to think of death as a graduation. The last time I graduated, Fr. Ridley helped me embrace what was, at the time, my Next Step. Let's do the same for him by celebrating the positive effects he had -- and continues to have -- throughout his existence.

Send us your letters

We welcome Letters to the Editor from all students, administration, faculty and staff at Loyola College. Letters to the Editor should concern some issue of importance on this campus, or should refer to issues raised in *The Greyhound*, and are limited to 500 words.

Two ways to submit a letter:
1. Send the letter in an e-mail: greyhound@loyola.edu
2. Drop off your letter to Bellarmine Hall 01 (Gardens B)

The deadline for letter submission is Friday at noon for Tuesday's publication. Please include class year and major along with your letter.

THE GREYHOUND

LOYOLA COLLEGE IN MARYLAND'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER
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4501 N. Charles St.	Newsroom: (410) 617-2282
Bellarmine Hall 01	Opinions: (410) 617-2509
Baltimore, MD 21210	Sports: (410) 617-2695
	Advertising: (410) 617-2867
greyhound@loyola.edu	Fax: (410) 617-2982
greyhoundads@loyola.edu	



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U-WIRE

I feel that I was as close to Fr. Ridley as any of the Jesuits at Loyola with the exception of Fr. Nash (a friend of 45 years) and Fr. Baerwald (a mentee of Fr. Ridley). "Hap" was my immediate boss. He recruited me for my job as director of Campus Ministry, and we used to meet individually on a biweekly basis. I personally treasured his careful listening, as well as his active interest in me and in the programs of Campus Ministry. I am grateful that he empowered me to shape the details of my job according to my gifts and interests and especially that he encouraged me to do a lot of the Ignatian education that I engage in at Loyola in various ways.

Whenever I asked him about the tensions in my work between administrative responsibilities and direct pastoral contact with people, especially students, Hap told me without any hesitation exactly what I hoped to hear -- namely, that he saw no greater value or priority than my direct outreach to people.

In many ways, that was reflective of his own life priorities. First and foremost, Hap loved being a priest. Not every Jesuit university president feels that the demands of his job make it possible for him to preside and preach regularly on campus, but Hap unapologetically reveled in it. He was a regular celebrant at the 11 a.m. Sunday mass, and he could be found in the pews whenever he was on campus, even on those Sundays when it was not his turn to preside and preach. My office simply presumed that he would want to lead worship at major campus liturgies: Mass of the Holy Spirit, Family Weekend, Baccalaureate and the like.

As anyone who heard him preach can attest, he was an elegant wordsmith who spoke with depth and a power born of faith. He somehow also found time to preside and preach off campus regularly -- e.g., at Stella Maris retirement community -- and was generous in making himself

available for alumni weddings. Hap was also compassionate when people experienced pain and need. In the four and a half years that I worked for him, I can't think of a single time when a member of the Loyola community was hospitalized for illness or injury, great or small, that Hap failed to visit himself -- generally before any other Jesuit could get there. I hope that people will remember, too, that the Alpha program, as well as the Sophomore Initiative which is currently being developed and implemented, are in many ways Hap's "babies." This is because, after Jesuit and priest, he remained first and foremost an educator. In guiding the college, his eye never strayed far from key indicators of academic quality, and he made sure that these never slipped, that they continued steadily to improve.

What will linger in my memory and my heart about Hap as my brother, mentor and friend will be his quiet, often indirect but powerful leadership in meetings; his dry, wry wit; his gentle and gentlemanly demeanor; and the way he made it so easy and agreeable to spend time in his company.

I will long remember how this private man not given to public displays of emotion got choked up whenever he tried to talk about the

response of Loyola -- especially its student leaders -- to the terrible events of Sept. 11, 2001. Yet he found that he couldn't not talk about it, emotional displays notwithstanding, because no other thing made him more proud of the college and its students than their moment of solidarity, courage, class and faith in responding to unprecedented loss and tragedy.

Perhaps emotional displays stand out in memory because, for this man of overall quiet dignity, they were rare and deeply genuine. In any event, let me end with a more recent experience, one in a much lighter vein. Shortly before this past Christmas break, Hap phoned me in what I can only describe as a highly uncharacteristic state of almost childlike excitement and enthusiasm. He wanted to tell me that he had come across a painting of the Madonna and Child in a local gallery and had instantly fallen in love with it. Believe me when I say that he did everything short of reach through the phone to tug at my sleeve! His whole effect -- so unlike his usual unflappable calmness -- was that of a kid who had found something unbelievably neat and couldn't wait to show it off to his parents and friends.

Indeed, he had already persuaded the gallery owner to

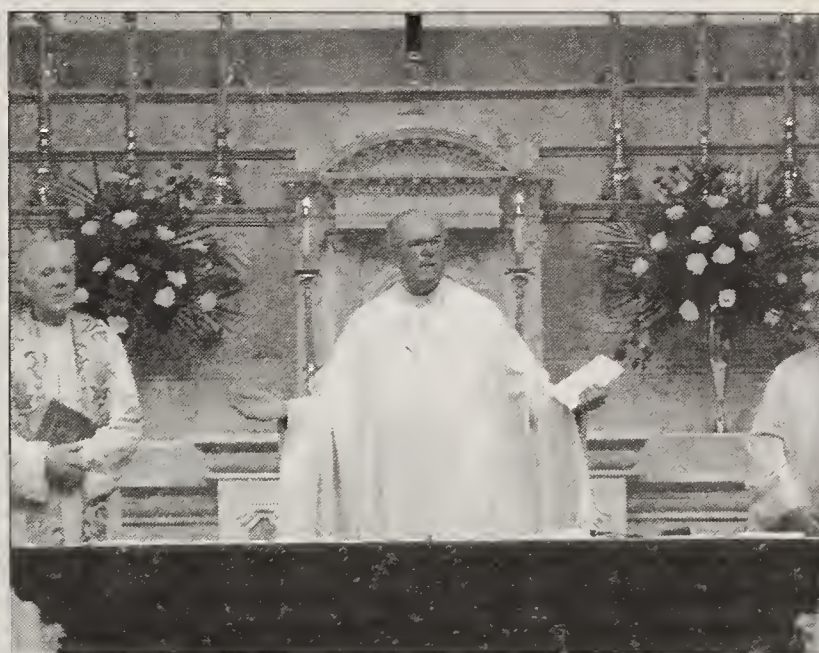


PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Fr. Ridley celebrates mass at during the Sesquicentennial celebration at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen. He enjoyed celebrating mass at the Alumni Memorial Chapel on a regular basis.

consider donating the painting to our chapel. Within the week, he called George Miller and me to say that he would swing by our office with his car in a few minutes to pick us up and drive us to the gallery. His enthusiasm was infectious, and quite frankly, amusing; I found myself grinning as we waited for his car. The word in my head was one that I never expected to associate with Hap: he was just so "cute" in his excitement and delight!

The painting proved to be everything he said and more -- it was a beautiful, tender, faith-filled image, executed with skill and impeccable taste. As we drove home, Hap schemed with us about creating a worthy setting for the painting in the chapel. Why? Because he thought it had the potential to become the focus of a much loved and well used place of

devotion and prayer for the Loyola community, especially for his beloved undergraduates.

I am grateful that one of my final memories of him will feature him wearing that charming and impish grin of boyish enthusiasm. I think, as usual, that his taste was impeccable and his judgment right on target. I feel sure that when we do create a fitting home for his "find" in the Alumni Chapel, it will quickly become a favorite spot for prayer. What Hap could never have imagined, however, is that the painting will also become an enduring reminder of his own faith, his vision, and his strong and unwavering love and service for the college and its students. Thanks for that, Hap. We'll miss you.

Rev. Daniel Ruff, S.J.
Director of Campus Ministry

Jesuit university presidents remember Ridley

On behalf of The University of Scranton, I extend our condolences on the death of Fr. Harold Ridley, S.J. He will be sorely missed by many friends and colleagues.

We at Scranton remember Fr. Ridley fondly because of his generous service on our board of trustees. He was a man of keen intelligence, irrepressible wit and great generosity. Jesuit education has lost one of its most articulate spokesmen and passionate supporters. On a personal note, I am grateful to Fr. Ridley for the wise counsel and encouragement he offered me at various stages in my Jesuit formation. I will miss him very much. Please count on my prayers and the prayers of The University of Scranton community during this difficult time for Loyola College.

Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.
President
University of Scranton

I am deeply saddened by the sudden death of Fr. Ridley, S.J. I had the pleasure of knowing him for many years. I was on the board of trustees of Loyola College when he was elected president. He was a man of vision who strengthened the life of the college. He was also a man of sensitivity and humor. His death is a loss for Loyola and the higher education community.

Rev. Kevin Wildes, S.J.
President's Office
Loyola University New Orleans

My deepest sympathies go to the Loyola community on the death of Fr. Ridley. I have known Hap since he was dean and had great admiration and respect for his abilities and his leadership as president. He has done great things for Loyola and he will be very much missed by the members of the Loyola community as well as his fellow presidents of Jesuit universities. Know that you are in the thoughts and prayers of the Santa Clara University community.

Rev. Paul L. Locatelli, S.J.
President
Santa Clara University

On behalf of the entire Holy Cross community, I offer the Loyola community our deepest sympathy and prayers. You have lost a great priest, educator and leader. We will miss him very much here. He was a wonderful trustee who always kept us grounded in our core mission and goals as a

“ He has done great things for Loyola and he will be very much missed ...

-- Rev. Paul L.
Locatelli, S.J.

Catholic liberal arts college. His penetrating questions and keen insights always helped illuminate the important issues and guide us toward the best response. Our board is deeply shaken by the loss of a highly respected colleague and beloved friend.

Rev. Michael McFarland, S.J.
President
College of the Holy Cross

I knew Fr. Ridley from the days when he entered the Jesuit Novitiate at Bellarmine College in Plattsburgh, N.Y. He was a wonderful human being and a great Jesuit priest who fully dedicated himself to the work of higher education. His death is a tremendous loss for Loyola College. His fellow presidents of Jesuit colleges and universities will miss his wisdom and grace. We here at Canisius College send our most sincere condolences to all who mourn his loss at Loyola.

Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J.
President
Canisius College

I was saddened to learn of the sudden death of Fr. Ridley. He devoted his life to Jesuit higher education at both Loyola College in Maryland and Le Moyne College. He was a wonderful colleague on the board of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, successful college president and a respected civic leader. He was well-loved and will be greatly missed.

John J. DeGioia
President
Georgetown University

It was with considerable sadness that I heard the news of Fr. Ridley's untimely passing.

I came to know Hap when we served together on the board of the College of the Holy Cross. He became an even greater friend in the years since I was named president of Saint Joseph's University.

Hap was a true role model of leadership, integrity and achievement -- a shining example of how to take an institution to even greater levels. Loyola's increased stature is no accident, and all of us involved in Jesuit higher education are diminished by his loss.

Please know that the entire Saint Joseph's community sends its thoughts and prayers to Fr. Ridley's family and friends and to Loyola College's students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Rev. Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.
President
Saint Joseph's University

FATHER HAROLD RIDLEY, S.J.

1939-2005

His LEADERSHIP...

We all have different images of Fr. Ridley: President of Loyola College, Jesuit, Greyhound fanatic, teacher and friend. What made him special, though, was his ability to be all of those things at once. Here, we remember the many sides of Fr. Ridley and his time at Loyola College.



GREYHOUND PHOTO ARCHIVE



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Fall 2003 – Left and above: Fr. Ridley at the opening of the new Columbia Graduate Center.

His FAITH...



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His SUPPORT...



GREYHOUND PHOTO ARCHIVE

May 2003 – Fr. Ridley talks to students of the graduating class of 2003. Left: Fr. Ridley presides over the Sept. 11, 2001 Reconciliation Mass.

Loyola purchases Boumi Temple, future site of the Fitness and Aquatic Center

1996

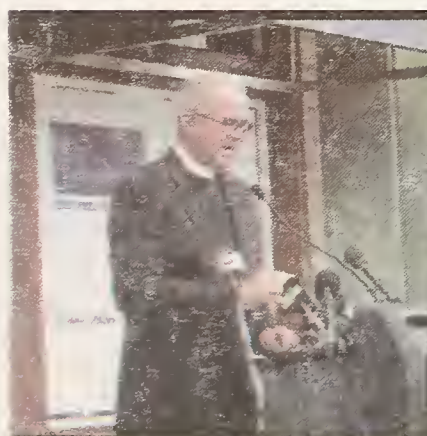
\$100 million renovation of campus begins

Alpha Program begins

Timonium Graduate Center opens

1998

Addition to D
Fitne



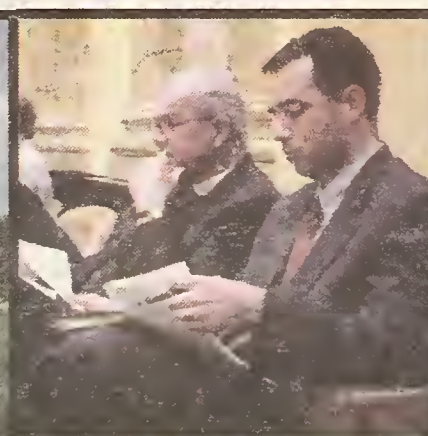
1994

Ridley inaugurated as Loyola's 23rd President



1997

College begins implementation of Magis Plan



1999

Remodeled Andrew W. Student Center, Primo

HIS DEDICATION...



GREYHOUND PHOTO ARCHIVE



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2002 – Left Fr. Ridley gives a speech before a crowd of students, faculty and alumni at the Sesquicentennial celebration downtown. Above: Fr. Ridley talks with John Palmucci, vice president of finance and administration.

HIS HEART...

Spring 2003 – Fr. Ridley stands beside Diane Geppi-Aikens as she is presented with an honor. After her death Curley Field was renamed Diane Geppi-Aikens Field. Below: Fr. Ridley pushes Geppi-Aikens past her applauding lacrosse team.



GREYHOUND PHOTO ARCHIVE



GREYHOUND PHOTO ARCHIVE



GREYHOUND PHOTO ARCHIVE

Let these pictures and all of those in our hearts be a reminder of all the ways Fr. Ridley made imprints on our lives.

Curley Field renamed for Diane Geppi-Aikens
Loyola Clinical Center in Belvedere Square opens

Sellinger Building opens
Kelley Science Center opens
and Aquatic Center opens

2000

2002

2004



2001

2003

Sesquicentennial Celebration
Jenkins renovation complete

Columbia Graduate Center opens

PAST AND PRESENT LOYOLA STUDENTS REM

Thank you for providing updates on Fr. Ridley's passing. We are so thankful for the website and *The Greyhound* site for keeping us all up to date.

My name is John Meyer, and I was fortunate to be part of the Class of 1997 and serve as the senior class president. I have found myself reflecting the last couple hours over the day back in 1993 when I was trying to decide which college I would choose in my selection process. I had the opportunity to visit Loyola the day Fr. Sellinger died. It was the sense of community on that terrible day (happened to be raining as well) that made me choose Loyola as my home for the next couple of years. It is my hope that the strong sense of community will carry Loyola through Fr. Ridley's passing.

Fr. Ridley was a terrific mentor during my college years and the time after graduation. I will miss his greetings and advice. Our relationship was based around wit and several practical jokes -- which I often found myself on the losing end. Father took the time to listen to our ideas from student government and even agreed to start our senior dinner series at his residence. Originally, it might have been a plan just to get some friends over to the house for a free meal -- but it was an opportunity for him to provide advice to graduating seniors and for the students to communicate what was going on around campus.

He will be missed.

John Meyer
Class of 1997

To the Loyola Community:

Like many of my fellow alumni, I was disheartened when informed of the passing of Fr. Harold Ridley. He was the embodiment of leadership by example; he admirably supported campus growth and diversity such as Spectrum and acted with only the most genuine of intentions. Fr. Ridley's passing is truly a tragedy and will be felt for years to come.

I cannot help but be reminded of the fragility of human life on such an occasion. However, I will also let this be a reminder of what is good about Loyola College. Fr. Ridley is a prime example of why I can stand proud among an elite group of doctoral students, many with degrees from institutions like Notre Dame, Georgetown and UNC. The close, supportive community experience I took from Loyola remains even after venturing 1,000 miles away to a new endeavor. Harold Ridley dedicated his stint as president of Loyola College to foster that amazing environment.

So, I implore all the present members of the campus community to act. After taking time to mourn and adjust, act to ensure that Loyola's community does not regress. Act fervently and passionately to maintain and expand openness, dialogue and acceptance in Loyola's community as Fr. Ridley did.

Finally, especially to the class of '05 who have a mere four months left, I urge you to make concerted efforts to let those people who are important to you know that they are. Graduation will come sooner than you realize, I promise. Events like Fr. Ridley's passing serve as a reminder to me of the transience of life. Don't let that time pass without making a difference and letting those you care about know it!

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

Rob Cramer
Class of 2004

When I was a sophomore at Loyola, I was leaving the bookstore one morning with a copy of *The New York Times* and ran into Fr. Ridley. He stopped me to tell me how excited he was to see a student reading the paper and shared his own addiction to the *Times*, admitting that on vacation days he pored over the Sunday edition for hours, reading even the obituaries and marriage announcements. He was so happy that I didn't have the heart to tell him I was assigned to read it for a class. In the years since, I've become just as addicted -- and I've thought about that moment often when I've sat down with the Sunday edition.

He was really funny, too. Those students who had the privilege to attend his senior dinners remember his stories about the newly-rescued, untrained greyhound mascot that destroyed every carpet in his house and his years as one of Fr. Haig's vice presidents at Le Moyne College. Many of us remember days when he invited us to lunch after 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday or gave us his Orioles tickets. He loved students and students knew it. He will be greatly missed, but his efforts to improve Loyola's commitment to scholarship and service will ensure that his legacy lives on. R.I.P. Fr. Ridley.

Kate Leahy
Class of 2002

This fall, I was privileged to attend the Sellinger School of Business and Management's Business Leader of the Year Dinner as a representative of the Student Government Association. During the evening, Fr. Ridley was mentioned in one of my conversations. A fellow attendee proceeded to tell me a story about "Hap" -- how Georgetown University, in their search for a president, expressed an interest in Fr. Ridley. In an effort to persuade him, Georgetown explained that this was his chance to join the "big leagues." Fr. Ridley knew that he wanted to stay at Loyola College, and so he replied that he had his own minor league team that he was taking to the big leagues.

Jen Zimmerman
Class of 2007



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Fr. Ridley shakes hands with and greets people at the opening of a new Graduate Center in Columbia, extending the College's presence in Howard County. This center doubled the academic space Loyola had in Columbia.

I was so saddened to hear the news of Fr. Ridley's sudden passing. He came to Loyola the same time that my classmates and I did, and I can clearly remember attending his inauguration and feeling as if it were a ceremony not only to mark a new beginning for Loyola, but for the Class of 1998 as well. Throughout my four years at Loyola as an undergraduate and my two subsequent years there as a graduate student, Fr. Ridley's presence was such a constant one on campus -- not only through the amazing steps he took to promote Loyola College in recruiting, development and expansion, but through his simple act of spending time on campus, greeting each student and faculty member warmly and stopping to get to know those who he served so well. It is rare that students can feel such a connection to the president of their college, but it is just one of the many things that made the Loyola experience so meaningful to my classmates and our fellow lucky alumni.

Deirdre McCloskey
Class of 1998

While I was at Loyola ('98), Fr. Ridley noticed that I was interested in politics. And as president, he would often invite elected officials to campus to show them around and share his vision for Loyola with them. You can imagine my surprise when he began inviting me to regularly join him in these meetings. It was a very thoughtful gesture.

I remember how impressive it was to be the one student invited to join in on a meeting between the president of my college and a member of Congress. Needless to say, it was a great learning experience. But that was characteristic of Fr. Ridley: He regularly sought out opportunities for students to learn and grow and was happy to share.

Fr. Ridley's leadership at Loyola was almost constantly tested and challenged by circumstances, events and -- frequently -- by members of the Loyola community. To his credit, Fr. Ridley never buckled or wavered under that pressure. And he never discouraged discourse -- even if the subject was himself. He never shied away from scrutiny. He confronted every challenge head-on and aggressively, but tempered his response with that inimitable dignity and grace and eloquence that were his signature. He was a gentleman and he will be sorely missed.

Sergio Vitale
Class of 1998

Fr. Ridley was such an amazing man. My parents often told my sister and I (Cecilia, Class of 1996, and myself, Class of 2003) that they always felt safe with us away at school, because they knew Father Ridley would ensure that Loyola was our home away from home. And he did just that -- by opening his house to us. My senior year, I remember dining at Fr. Ridley's house, as he often invited senior students to do. He shared wine with us over a fire and filled us in on updates as to what was going on at Loyola. Over dinner Father asked us to voice any questions, opinions or even funny stories we had about life at Loyola. Hap listened intently and gave great thought in answering us openly and honestly. He will truly be missed.

Jacki Hallinan
Class of 2003

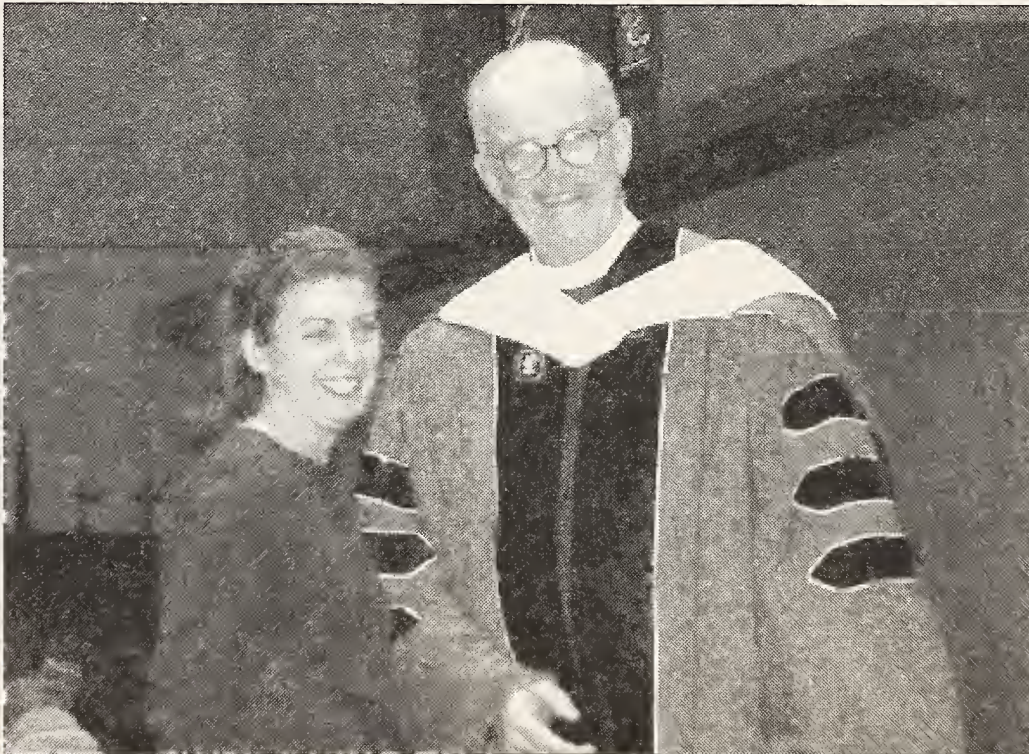


PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Fr. Ridley poses for a picture with Sara Bentley, a member of the class of 2002, during her graduation. Ridley presided over 10 graduation ceremonies during his tenure as president of Loyola College in Maryland.

MEMBER COLLEGE PRESIDENT HAROLD RIDLEY

I never thought I'd be writing for *The Greyhound* again, but sometimes life throws us unexpected curveballs. I didn't always write the nicest things about Loyola in my column, but I always believed in the direction Harold Ridley was taking us. That's why I'm back on these pages just for one day. I needed to pay tribute to Fr. Ridley and his outstanding presidency. I owe a lot to the man; we all do.

I didn't have a close personal relationship with Fr. Ridley but he played a major part in my success at Loyola. Back in late April 2001, the five determined co-founders of TGN 70 (since transformed into WLOY-TV) had an afternoon meeting at Ridley's residence. I was a freshman at the time and very skeptical of the meeting. I didn't understand what we were doing there or why the busiest man at Loyola would care about this TV station pipe dream we had. Little did I know how important that meeting would be.

I don't know how the next three years would have played out if it hadn't happened. Fr. Ridley was right there with us, he supported us every step of the way and made sure we had everything we needed to get started and running by late 2001/early 2002. There was a reason for this. Fr. Ridley believed in progress. Sure, every college president does, but Ridley thought big ... *really* big.

He wanted to bring the school up a tier, to make Loyola a college that all high school seniors made their first choice. In order to get there we had to make *giant* leaps forward. Ridley's presidency was truly one of *great* progress and in amazingly short time. The business school, the revamping of all the buildings, the improved technology, the added campuses, the FAC, WLOY radio, and (with our help) a television station for Loyola -- those are just a few innovations we've seen since he replaced the legendary Joseph Sellinger in 1994. I'm glad our TGN staff played a small part in "The Ridley Decade" and that we had the support of a college president who knew how great Loyola was and how much better it could be. To Fr. Ridley, there were no limits. And there shouldn't be.

My last interaction with Fr. Ridley was in October at the New York Alumni Event in Manhattan. As reported in *The Greyhound* last semester, a few of us former TGN staffers agreed to film a pilot for a new national college cable network. Fr. Ridley had been following the project very closely. Closer than I thought.

I was convinced he had forgotten my name or was too preoccupied with other business to follow our progress. But sure enough he came up to me, offered a firm handshake and said, "Joe, congratulations on everything and best of luck. You guys have come a long way." He remembered us all right. We talked very briefly, and then he had to go prepare for his speech. It was a speech that outlined the "Second Ridley Decade."

The "Second Ridley Decade" is over and now the legacy begins. He left with great things for Loyola College in the pipeline. These visions *will* be carried out. They have to. We, Loyola's past, present and future owe it to ourselves as a proud community and we owe it to our lost leader. There are no limits, and there shouldn't be.

God bless Fr. Ridley, the Ridley family and Loyola College.

Joe Salvati
Class of 2004

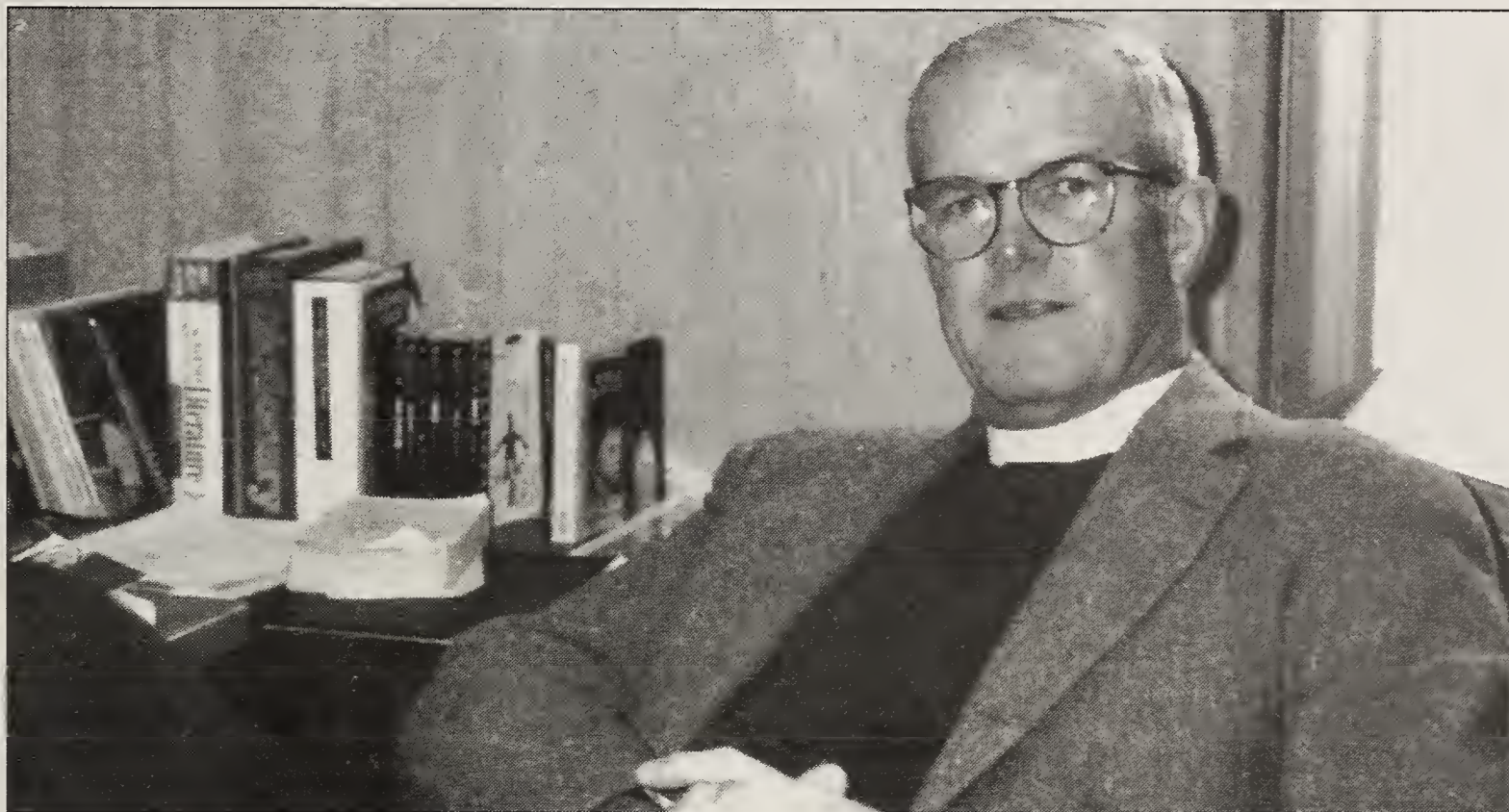


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LE MOYNE COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Fr. Ridley sits at his desk while at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, N.Y. He spent over 20 years working at Le Moyne, serving as the chair of the English Department and chief academic adviser before he came to Loyola to take over as president of the college in July of 1994.

First, thank you very much for the news on Fr. Ridley's passing. I am a graduate of the class of '01 and, like many alumni who worked closely with Father, yesterday brought with it a feeling of shock, sadness and reflection on what a wonderful man and president Fr. Ridley was for Loyola.

My name is Carrie Fox, and I was SGA president in 2000 (maiden name Carrie Forti). My husband, Brian Fox, was SGA president in '99. Both of us held such an immense amount of respect for Fr. Ridley -- both for the contributions he made to the college community as a whole and for the individual support he offered Loyola's student leaders. I always appreciated his encouragement and his sincere interest in the concerns of the student body. He was a very special part of my college experience, and I will always remember him fondly. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and the Loyola community at this very sad time.

Carrie Fox
Class of 2001

As a graduate of Loyola and a former member of the Green and Grey Society, it saddens me greatly to learn of the passing of Fr. Ridley. I met him at a Black Students Association event as a freshman, and we worked together on many issues up to my senior year. He was always willing to listen to differing viewpoints and he was inclusive in his views of the student body. I know many people that he personally helped on issues ranging from financial aid to housing and curriculum. He would take time out to sit and talk to students about their lives at Loyola. That is a rare quality for an administrator of a large college.

He was also active in the community outside of Loyola. His pledge and commitment to the Center for Values and Service and the work that they did throughout Baltimore was extremely commendable. Hopefully, the new president

will follow in his footsteps and keep Loyola as a positive experience for all of its students.

Fr. Ridley was a kind, engaging and visionary person. He embodied the motto of "Strong Truths, Well Lived." He will be missed.

James Logan
Class of 2000

Last spring I took a trip with my boyfriend Matt, three other students and Terry Sawyer to Annapolis to lobby the state delegates to continue funding private colleges. On the way down my boyfriend and I continually picked on each other, arguing and bickering, much to the amusement of the rest of our group. When we arrived in Annapolis, Terry asked Matt and I if we were dating, and if we weren't, perhaps we should be. Everyone got a good laugh out of that, but that was only the beginning of the joke.

When our group met with Fr. Ridley later in the day, Terry had already told him about Matt and I "bickering like a married couple" on the drive down. From then on, Fr. Ridley deemed Matt and I a happily married couple. If he saw Matt on campus he would ask "Where's the wife?" or "What happened to your better half?" With me it was always "Where's your hubby?" or "What's the husband up to these days?" since Matt graduated last year. This was a joke that never got old. Just last month, my dad, a professor at Loyola, was in a meeting with Fr. Ridley when he was asked how my relationship with Matt was fairing. My dad seemed to find this just as funny as Fr. Ridley did.

I will miss Fr. Ridley's jokes and the way his comments would drive Matt crazy. To me, Fr. Ridley was a man who remembered everyone, made those whom he met feel special and was always ready with a joke.

Lara Morrell
Class of 2005

On Wednesday, the Loyola College community suffered a great loss with the passing of Fr. Harold Ridley, our beloved president, mentor, teacher and friend. While I did not know Fr. Ridley very well on a personal level, meeting mostly with him at conferences and events, the past few days have made one thing exceptionally clear to me: The first title on that list was, to many people, the least important.

In his 10 years at Loyola, there is no doubt about the excellence with which Fr. Ridley executed his presidential duties. Thanks to his amazing leadership our campus and Loyola's reputation and potential have grown in leaps and bounds, and yet it is not these accomplishments that people seem to be remembering right now. In the last few days, I have heard people remember Hap's constant presence at the lacrosse games, his colorful sense of humor and the million different ways in which he took time out of his busy schedule to make them feel special and important. At Friday's ceremony, we heard from a few of those students whose lives were directly touched by Fr. Ridley, but what was more telling were the hundreds of students sitting in the audience who left their dorm rooms on a frigid afternoon to remember their friend. Not all of them had something to say, but their silence spoke volumes about the character and effects that we were all privileged to know.

While the sudden passing of a president is a great loss for any college, the loss of a friend is even harder. Fr. Ridley was a true friend to so many here at Loyola and as such will be deeply missed.

On behalf of the student body, I'd like to thank Fr. Ridley for his vision, his dedication and his love of Loyola and of all of us. Thank you for being our friend.

Kelly Crossett
Class of 2006
SGA President

COLLEAGUES REMEMBER FR. RIDLEY

You might have thought of us as a Mutt and Jeff team. Fr. Ridley was ostensibly the Jeff, and I, at a mere 5' 7", certainly the Mutt. As different as we were, we had tremendous respect for one another. There was nothing finer than Fr. Ridley's concern for one's person. And, I, in turn, knowing how omniscient he was, always enjoyed offering whatever kindness I could.

Father's great size was a foil to his self-effacing person. He knew that by his mere stature he commanded attention. But really he did not need nor particularly want attention. Someone may have wondered why he didn't seize the opportunity to impose his importance upon others. He didn't ignore anyone. He simply was not impressed with himself. He deferred so effortlessly to others. That art, certainly a tribute to his parents, was bred in the bone. While still holding his place in the College he yielded everything he could to the other.

Allow me to give you an example. When I first arrived at Loyola I offered to help out with the noon-day liturgies. There I was, the rector at the altar, all fitted out to celebrate the Eucharist. And there, in the 10th row from the back of Alumni Chapel -- yes, I squinted and saw for sure -- that was the president, Fr. Ridley, inconspicuously kneeling there praying. He prayed not as president. He didn't need to claim his precedence at prayer. He prayed as a humble Jesuit priest, knowing how much he needed God.

Rev. Eugene M. Geinzer, S.J.
Rector

Dear Loyola Students,

It is with sadness that I write you this note.

Fr. Ridley was a wise and visionary leader, a compassionate Jesuit and a kind friend and mentor to many of us. I know that he had a deep dedication to and love for you, our students, and his work at Loyola. I am sure that many of you must share the alternating feelings that I have of shock and disbelief, grief at his passing, peace in knowing that he is truly in the company of Jesus, and resolve that we will carry out his vision for the college with even greater intensity. Fr. Ridley was dedicated to the vision expressed in our strategic plan and in talks to you and to your parents. He had great faith that each member of the community would do his or her part to bring that vision about. Because of his leadership, we all know the work we need to do and we are dedicated to doing it. With the many prayers of the college community, alumni,



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE LE MOYNE COLLEGE ARCHIVES
and friends, and with our own dedication, I know we will succeed in carrying out his vision for the greater glory of God.

David Haddad
Interim President

Simply put, Fr. Ridley was one of the best men I have ever known. He has had a significant impact on my life, both personally and professionally, and I will miss him enormously. He was my boss, my mentor and my close and trusted friend.

To me, he truly was the "father" of Loyola. When he was around, there was always the feeling that everything would be okay. His presence alone brought comfort and calm, and his wisdom consistently pointed us in the right direction. His leadership, his wit, his compassion and his humility are all attributes I aspire to possess, and I am so fortunate to have gotten to know and observe him.

Someday, much later in my life, I may be asked what people have impacted me in a profound and significant way. I am certain that if asked that question, Fr. Ridley's name will immediately come to my mind. Words can not express the respect, admiration and loyalty I had for the man, as well as the impact he has had on me and my family. I am eternally grateful for all he has taught me. I will miss him dearly and will do my best to live up to the great expectations that he had for all of us.

Terry Sawyer
Vice President for Administration

I spoke with Fr. Ridley for the last time late Tuesday afternoon. I had a little business to transact on another topic, and then I gave him the good news about this year's applicant pool. Applications have been running ahead since they started coming in last October. At times, we have been up as much as 20 percent, but we never know whether early trends will hold. This past weekend was our deadline, and we got a tremendous number of new applications right at the last minute. I told Fr. Ridley the good news -- that we are going to have a really great recruiting year.

We still haven't counted everything, but it seems quite certain that this last year of Fr. Ridley's presidency will see one the largest single-year increases in freshman applications in the history of the college. We will meet -- or come close to meeting -- the five-year strategic plan goal of 7,600 freshman applications. We had 4,500 when Fr. Ridley began here 10 years ago.

This extraordinary interest in Loyola is one of many tributes to our president. Under his leadership, the college has continued to expand and improve. When he spoke to prospective students, he was able to communicate both the excitement of Loyola's progress and the true meaning and deep significance of their opportunities in college. Recruiting, as important as it might be, is not central to our enterprise here at Loyola; education is. And Fr. Ridley was

both an outstanding educator and an outstanding educational administrator. However, our recruiting success does mean that his vision and his work have been embraced by young people in the process of making important decisions in their lives. More and more, these bright and accomplished students want to come here, to Fr. Ridley's school.

William Bossemeyer
Dean of Admissions

Fr. Ridley was able to capture and personify something very distinctive about Loyola: its emphasis on students and their families. He was especially considerate of the parents and guardians who had a stake in Loyola, almost from the first moment they walked on campus, and he traveled extensively every year to visit them across the country. In numerous conversations I had with Loyola parents, they spoke about how happy they were that he was leading Loyola and how they felt that they had entrusted their sons and daughters to a man and a place that would care for them, and in my observations they returned that same affection to him and to the university.

Ken Ferrara
Classes of 1993 and 2003 XMBA
Director of Annual Giving and the Alumni Capital Campaign



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Fr. Ridley talks with Terry Sawyer, vice president of administration, and his family during one of the Sesquicentennial events. Sawyer also served as a special assistant to the president under Ridley before being promoted.

Services for College President Harold Ridley, S.J.

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

Mass of Remembrance
(for campus community)
Reitz Arena
12:10 p.m.

Campus Fellowship Reception
Andrew White Student Center
1:30-3 p.m.

Viewing
(open to the public)
Alumni Memorial Chapel
5-9 p.m.

Christian Wake Service
7 p.m.
Alumni Memorial Chapel

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

Mass of Christian Burial
(for general public)
Cathedral of Mary Our Queen
11 a.m.

Reception
McGuire Hall
12:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Loyola College in Maryland for a Memorial Scholarship Fund honoring Fr. Ridley.

Reflections on FAC visits and dinner with Fr. Ridley

When I was first hired at the Fitness and Aquatics Center, I was a sophomore and made it my first act of business to get to know patrons as well as other students during their activities. It was at

CHARLESDUVA

that time that I began to see Fr. Ridley at the center with some regularity. I took it upon myself to greet him in a certain cordial fashion. Not at all brown-nosing, but I did think that conversing with the president of the college in a casual atmosphere to be quite exciting and insightful. It was inspiring.

For almost three years Fr. Ridley and I enjoyed an ongoing discussion, divulging into everything from sports to campus events and even popular culture each time he would come to exercise. He would always be donning some athletic gear in support of a Loyola College team and spent his vigorous workout sessions on the various aerobic machines.

Each time he would visit a new magazine or periodical would accompany him to the exercise room. Many times after he was finished with his workout his personal magazines and newspapers were given to staff and patrons to enjoy. He essentially made working there seem like a great and important task and would turn even the most gloomy or sleep-desired mornings upside down with a smile and a quick joke.

I can honestly say that he was one of the only people I have ever met that could walk into a space

and immediately change the entire atmosphere for the better.

Since my arrival at Loyola, Fr. Ridley stood out in the sea of people that took to the Evergreen campus each day. It wasn't just his great stature but rather the great presence he commanded and intellectualism he radiated. Being who he was everyone at Loyola easily and almost immediately recognized him. So I can only imagine how many greetings and conversations he must have held in one day. Nonetheless, upon greeting him he would speak to you as if you were the first person to say good morning to him.

He was a true gentleman with the utmost respect for each

student on campus in addition to having an impeccable sense of personal integrity.

More than three years have passed since I first began here at Loyola. Now, being a senior I was offered the chance to dine with him at his home in late October. I had heard that he invited senior students to his home a few times during the year, and I was both honored and excited to be included in the group that was first to dine with him this year. Along with seven other students I showed up at his residence just before 6 o'clock and was led into his den where we were offered a drink. We all congregated in the den and as we waited for others to arrive and

we perused the pictures on his desk and above his mantle and got a glimpse into a real slice of his life. I stood there still thinking to myself that it was grand enough that I would see him a few times a week at the Fitness and Aquatic Center where he knew me by name, but I was standing in his den looking at pictures of his family and in full anticipation of a tremendous evening. To know that only a small handful of students get this fine opportunity each year, I felt exceedingly lucky.

We sat on the couches that occupied the center of his den and spoke of sports, study-abroad endeavors and what it was like to be a senior. His great personality

and sense of humor came out, and we had a great conversation. He even went into some detail about his previous academic pursuits, employment at other universities and his family life and growing up in New Jersey. Being in his company in addition to that of some of the finest students on campus made the evening a memory I will never forget.

Every student on campus can attest to some professor, mentor or supervisor that they have known and grown under during their undergraduate studies here at Loyola.

However, for most students, Fr. Ridley has been the static influence in their lives, knowingly or not. He influenced the mind of anyone who would come into contact with him and through his diligent guidance of the university he made the past four years of my life enjoyable and successful.

Fr. Harold Ridley, S.J. was a man of intellect with fervor for education. He embodies the Jesuit ideals and acted as a cornerstone for both academic and spiritual endeavors on this campus. I was fortunate enough to get to know a man with a great spirit -- a great sense of humor, a passion for life and living and who devoted much of his life to the church and the development of young minds.

I consider myself fortunate to have been an acquaintance of his throughout my pursuits here at Loyola, and I consider us all blessed for sharing in his vision of excellence in academics and in life.

Fr. Harold Ridley S.J., thank you for everything and you will be greatly missed.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Fr. Ridley talks with a Loyola community member during Loyola College sesquicentennial celebration.

Former editor of *The Greyhound* shares memories

When I interviewed Fr. Ridley last April to mark his 10-year milestone as Loyola's President, never, not for a moment did I think it would be one of the last times I would speak with him. As he said himself, he was in good health, he was excited about the years ahead and was looking forward to seeing the college continue to move toward what he believed it could be. Now, of course, we know that is not to be.

While re-reading that interview this week, I was struck by Fr. Ridley's own words. The interview truly reflects why he was the great president, and the great person, that he was. It also shows how he was uniquely suited to take the office when he did. By all accounts, Rev. Joseph Sellinger, S.J. was a mythic figure who had the admiration of not only the Loyola community, but the community at large. Fr. Ridley recognized that, and he respected Sellinger's legacy, but he was not one to be intimidated by the idea of replacing him.

The great confidence Fr. Ridley had in himself and his abilities provided a smooth transition. He recognized that the transition was no time for the college to "catch its breath," as he put it.

"Institutional momentum is immensely difficult to achieve," he said. His ability to understand that, and the wisdom and new approach he brought to challenges facing the college allowed the college to grow as it has. One of the most tragic elements of his passing is that Ridley will not be here to see his vision for the college come to fruition.

As the editor of *The Greyhound* for two years and a member of the Green and Grey Society in my senior year, I had the great fortune of knowing Fr. Ridley well. Of course, I was never quite sure how happy he was to see me. At times he referred to me as "The Poison Pen" or a "No Good Rabble Rouser." When I caught him one day with a copy of *The Greyhound*, he assured me that he only picked up a copy of the "Domestic Press" to read the Police Blotter (which shows just how in tune he was with the students). When he saw me leading a tour group on campus, he warned them not to believe a thing I said. And as I received my diploma last May, he exclaimed how happy he was to finally get rid of me.

But for all his trademark barbs, he always treated me with respect,

and even offered praise to our staff for improvements we were able to make. Not more than a few weeks after we published an editorial that was particularly critical of Fr. Ridley (which I know he was angry about), he arranged an interview for me with the president of Goucher College, who previously had a distinguished career in journalism.

Fr. Ridley joked that he would never be bothered to read the paper, but he often had very thoughtful questions for me about a particular issue or an event that had happened that he wanted to know more about. He was obviously engaged in the daily events of the administration, but I don't know how many people really know how much he was interested in what the students' concerns were. He was unique among administrators in his ability to relate to students. John Palmucci, vice president of finance, once told me that when the two walked across campus together, he would be the one greeting professors and administrators while Fr. Ridley would be stopping students to say hello.

I certainly know that in my time as editor, we never gave Fr. Ridley

enough credit for his work on behalf of students. But Fr. Ridley never complained to me about that, as irritated as he may have been at times. That was very much his style, preferring to do good without fanfare, without recognition. One of his best qualities was his great humility, even for someone who had a commanding presence about him.

Part of Fr. Ridley's legacy will be the way he empowered students to bring about change on campus. As a Jesuit, he was obviously a man of great faith and moral principle. But even when students proposed ideas or events that were not exactly in line with

the Catholic Church's beliefs, he did not arbitrarily stand in the way. Instead, he fostered a climate where thoughtful discussion about new or controversial ideas was common. That is truly what higher education is all about.

Now, the college is faced with the tremendous challenge of replacing him. It won't be easy for someone to come at a time when Fr. Ridley's vision is starting to become reality. But it will be even more difficult to find someone who can simply bring to the table everything that Fr. Ridley did. Whoever is chosen, I just hope he reads that April interview, and can learn from Ridley's example.

LOYOLAGREYHOUND.COM

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

To read an interview with Rev. Harold E. Ridley, S.J., conducted by Mike Memoli of the *The Greyhound* in April please visit www.loyolagreyhound.com.

REV. HAROLD RIDLEY, S.J. 1939-2005

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THE GREYHOUND

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PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Rev. Harold Ridley, S.J. and Director of Athletics Joe Boylan were central to the growth of Loyola's athletic department over the past 10 years.

Ridley leaves mark on Loyola sports

BY TERRY FOY

As the president of a college bound to a standard of excellence and a continual pursuit for improvement, the Rev. Harold Ridley, S.J., an avid follower of college sports, held the athletic department at Loyola College to a similarly high standard.

Ridley's call for a competitive athletic program paid dividends as Loyola fielded sportsteams that continually represented the college well.

Named president of Loyola in the spring of 1994, Ridley was able to enjoy both the men's and women's basketball teams run to the NCAA tournament. Though both teams struggled to regain similar success after the mid-1990s, Ridley primed the Hounds for the future by approving of the hiring of head coaches Candy Cage and Jimmy Patsos, a pair of energetic young coaches who have big

plans for their teams.

"I think he was very proud of the staff we had here," said Director of Athletics Joe Boylan, who became good friends with Ridley since he came to Loyola. "He felt good about the staff, the way they represented the college and the things about it that he was proud of."

With the renovation of Alumnae Field this season, Ridley oversaw the return of home soccer games that could be played on grass.

"I think he's the only college president in the history of college presidents that could stand and watch two soccer games," Boylan said. "And he was fascinated by the game; he liked to watch."

Ridley also provided a great source of strength during the trying 2003 women's lacrosse season, as the very talented Greyhound squad made their run for a national championship as their coach Diane Geppi-Aikens was suffering with cancer.

"His homily at Diane's funeral was so phenomenal and so appropriate, it just demonstrated how well he knew everyone," Boylan said.

Combining his desire to enhance Loyola with his passion for sports, Ridley heartily supported a proposal for the Intercollegiate Athletic Complex and worked hard to move the project along.

"I think [the complex] meant a lot to him, and obviously he was a driving force, but he'll certainly be proud of it," Boylan said.

But Boylan thinks that, with all of his accomplishments, Ridley will leave a different, possibly more lasting legacy.

"Forget all the statistical stuff and the things he did for this department; what made him special was that he knew you, whether you were the parent of a top recruit or the guy whose job it was to sweep the floors," Boylan said.

Coaches lose biggest fan

BY MIKE TIRONE

It's not often in today's world of sports that you find words such as integrity, admirable, composure, genuine, comforting, and most of all, leader. Through his love of sports, the Rev. Harold Ridley, S.J. richly embraced these qualities.

In addition to being the president of Loyola, Ridley was a tremendous fan. He had a passion for sports and for competition and a love for the college community.

Being a true believer in a strong Jesuit education, Ridley also had a vision in having a competitive institution. From speaking with every lacrosse recruit to attending nearly every women's basketball home game, he was among the most avid fans at Loyola.

"He was a Jesuit, he was the president, but he loved athletics," men's lacrosse coach Bill Dirrigl said. "He loved it from top to bottom."

Dirrigl has seen this love up close throughout the years of knowing Ridley as a mentor, a peer and mostly as a friend. He attended lacrosse practices as often as possible, and when there came a day Ridley could not make it to a game, the following morning, Dirrigl would find a request on his desk for the game tape.

Ridley's personal approach to the recruiting process helped persuade many athletes to enroll at Loyola. In the past three years his presence was felt not only on the field but on campus as the men's lacrosse team's GPA and involvement within the community increased remarkably.

The national rankings of Dirrigl's recruiting classes have topped the charts in recent years, due in large part to the personal comfort level with each player felt with Ridley. He would speak with many of players after games or on campus and ask how their lives or seasons were going.

Ridley never talked about himself; he always wanted to discuss his Greyhounds, players said. He had a vision for the Loyola student-athlete and looked to make the college one of the top Jesuit educations in the nation.

"He loved what our program stood for," Dirrigl said. "It's a true honor to call him my friend."

Ridley was a leader and a competitor who hated to lose. On

the opposite side, he was a caring and gentle man. He made anyone who he spoke with comfortable, and always equal.

"He was always in khakis and polo hat," said women's basketball coach Candy Cage, laughing as she told stories about the man who gave her the job. "He looked like he just came off the golf course."

This description of Ridley was made by most of the members of the athletic department -- that he showed everyone the same amount of respect regardless of their rank or education. Physically Ridley had an imposing stature, tall and limber, but Loyola's president was characterized as having an air of humility.

He attended as many sporting events as possible and would feel free to comment on the officiating at any time like a true fan would.

"There aren't many institutions in the country where you're going to go to a women's basketball game and see the college president," Cage said. "Sure enough, if he was in town, he would be there."

Cage's team was scheduled to play Thursday, and many were apprehensive about a decision to postpone. Decision makers believed that Ridley would have wanted the game to be played, and the Hounds went on to turn back MAAC opponent Rider in a very emotional game.

In support of his athletes and coaches, Ridley listened to them and took seriously their requests. Whether it was hiring critical staff employees or planning for a new sports complex, Ridley was committed to the improvement of Loyola's athletics.

After a recent win by the men's basketball team over Canisius, Ridley spoke with coaches and players in the locker room. Loyola's president had developed a relationship with the team after attending several practices over Christmas break, something first-year head coach Jimmy Patsos had not experienced in his 13 years of coaching.

Though he was a dedicated fan, Ridley will be better remembered for the impact that he had on those around him. Mark Mettrick, the men's soccer coach, summed it up best saying: "He was a very admirable man, an excellent president, a good leader, a good teacher, and a good man."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KERRI O'DAY

Fr. Ridley co-presided over the wedding of current women's lacrosse coach Kerri O'Day.

BIGGEST WINS OF THE RIDLEY ERA

1994 - The men's basketball team comes back from a 16-point deficit to beat Manhattan for the MAAC Championship. The victory capped off a dream season for Loyola and Skip Prosser's first-year turn around, giving the Hounds their first appearance in the NCAA tournament.

1994 - A 72-66 win over Fairfield gave the women's basketball team their first NCAA birth and MAAC Championship. The Greyhounds would go on to reach the tournament again the following year.

1999 - The women's tennis team wins their first of four straight MAAC championships, regaining prominence after a one-year hiatus from a string of seven consecutive championship appearances.

2001 - Powerhouse Syracuse men's lacrosse team gets a wake-up call courtesy of a Loyola 14-13 overtime victory in a regular season non-conference matchup. Up to that point the Orangemen had proven an Achilles' heel for the Hounds.

2001 - Loyola men's soccer tops Maryland in a thrilling double-overtime victory, 1-0, to advance to the quarterfinals of the NCAA tournament. The win launches the Hounds past the dangerous Terps, a stumbling block for Loyola in previous seasons.

2003 - In the midst of legendary coach Diane Geppi-Aikens' bout with cancer, the women's lacrosse wins an emotional NCAA quarterfinal game over Yale, 13-7, to advance to the Final Four against Princeton. The victory was the final win in a dream season that saw the Hounds finish the regular season ranked first in the nation.